

## **Assembly Bill No. 1068**

### **CHAPTER 898**

An act to amend Sections 1265.5, 1276.5, 1337.9, 1338.5, 1522, 1736.5, and 1736.6 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to human services, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 27, 1998. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 28, 1998.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

**AB 1068, Campbell. Health and community care facilities.**

Existing law requires the State Department of Health Services to secure a criminal record prior to the initial licensure or renewal of a license of any person or persons to operate or manage an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled-habilitative to determine whether the applicant, facility administrator or manager, any direct care staff, or any other adult living in the same location has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation.

This bill would apply this criminal record check requirement to an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled-nursing and an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled, other than an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled operated by the state that secures criminal record clearances for its employees through another method, and upon hiring any direct care staff.

The bill would require the department to develop procedures to ensure that any licensee, direct care staff, or certificate holder for whom a criminal record clearance has been obtained pursuant to these provisions or provisions governing criminal record clearances for nurse assistants and home health aides shall not be required to obtain multiple criminal record clearances.

Existing law requires that the application or reapplication be denied if a conviction for a crime other than a minor traffic violation is found, unless otherwise approved pursuant to the licensing provisions.

This bill would, instead, require the denial of the application for licensure or renewal if the criminal record check indicates convictions of specified offenses, unless certain conditions exist. The bill would authorize the denial of the application for licensure or renewal if the criminal record check indicates conviction of offenses other than those specified, and other than minor traffic violations. The bill would require the department to consider designated factors as evidence of good character and rehabilitation in determining whether or not to deny an application for licensure or renewal under these provisions.

Existing law provides that these provisions do not require a criminal record check of persons employed as consultants.

This bill would, instead, require that persons employed as consultants and acting as direct care staff be subject to the same requirements for criminal record clearance as other direct care staff. The bill would provide that the employing facility shall not be required to pay any costs associated with the criminal record clearance of these consultants.

Existing law requires the submission of a fingerprint card to the department within 20 days after employment for purposes of obtaining the criminal record check.

This bill would, instead, impose this requirement, upon employment and prior to any contact with clients or residents.

Existing law generally requires the administrator of an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled-habilitative or an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled-nursing to be either a licensed nursing home administrator or a qualified mental retardation professional. Violation of these provisions, or willful or repeated violations of related regulations constitutes a crime.

This bill would extend this provision to apply to the administrator of an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled. The bill would require a qualified mental retardation professional, as defined, to complete at least 6 months of administrative training or demonstrate 6 months of experience in an administrative capacity in a licensed health facility, as defined, to qualify as an administrator of an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled under these provisions. By changing the definition of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law requires the department to deny an application for, or initiate an action to suspend or revoke, a nurse assistant certificate, or deny a training and examination application for a nurse assistant if the applicant or certificate holder has been convicted of specified offenses. However, if certain conditions exist the department is not required to act pursuant to this provision.

This bill would provide, until August 1, 2001, that the department is not required to act pursuant to this provision with regard to a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor petty theft or receiving stolen property, is requesting a renewal of their certificate, and has had no subsequent convictions in the last 5 years.

Existing law also authorizes the department to deny an application for, or deny, suspend, or revoke, a nurse assistant certificate for unprofessional conduct and various crimes.

This bill would require the department to consider designated factors as evidence of good character and rehabilitation in determining whether or not to deny an application for or deny, suspend, or revoke a nurse assistant certificate under these provisions.



Existing law sets forth procedures under which a nurse assistant applicant or certificate holder may request an administrative hearing when the department has determined that an application is to be denied or a certificate is to be denied, suspended, or revoked.

This bill would require that the hearing be conducted within 60 days of the receipt of a written request from the applicant or certificate holder submitted pursuant to existing procedures unless the applicant or certificate holder agrees to an extension.

Existing law requires that the criminal record clearance provisions for nursing assistant applicants be implemented, commencing July 1, 1998, and phased in, for all renewals of nurse assistant certificates, by June 30, 2000.

This bill would delete these implementation and phase in requirements.

Existing law requires that nurse assistant certificates be renewed every 2 years and provides that these certificates expire on the certificate holder's birthday.

This bill would authorize, until August 1, 2001, the department to extend the expiration of the certified nursing assistant's certification for 60 days under certain circumstances.

Existing law, the California Community Care Facilities Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of community care facilities, including social rehabilitation facilities, by the State Department of Social Services.

Existing law requires the department to secure a criminal record of designated staff members of a community care facility before issuing a license or special permit to operate the facility, except certain staff members of social rehabilitation facilities are exempt from the requirement to be fingerprinted for this purpose.

This bill would delete the exemption of certain staff members of social rehabilitation facilities from the criminal record check requirement. The bill would also specifically provide that any nurse assistant or home health aide meeting the criminal record clearance requirements for employment in facilities licensed by the State Department of Health Services would be deemed to meet existing criminal record clearance requirements for community care facilities.

Existing law authorizes the State Department of Social Services to deny an application for or deny, suspend, or revoke a home health aide certificate for unprofessional conduct and various crimes.

This bill would require the department to consider designated factors as evidence of good character and rehabilitation in determining whether or not to deny an application for or deny, suspend, or revoke a home health aide certificate under these provisions.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to conduct a criminal record clearance for all home health aides.

This bill would require the department to develop procedures to ensure that any licensee, direct care staff, or certificate holder for whom a criminal record clearance has been obtained pursuant to these provisions or provisions governing criminal record clearances for an intermediate care facility developmentally disabled-habilitative, intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled-nursing, or intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled or a nurse assistant shall not be required to obtain multiple criminal record clearances.

Under existing law, a home health aide license expires 12 months from the date of its issuance and existing law requires that the license be renewed annually.

This bill would authorize, until August 1, 2001, the department to extend the expiration of the certified home health aide's certification under certain circumstances.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1265.5 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1265.5. (a) Prior to the initial licensure or renewal of a license of any person or persons to operate or manage an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled habilitative, an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled nursing, or an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled, other than an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled operated by the state that secures criminal record clearances for its employees through a method other than as specified in this section or upon the hiring of direct care staff by any of these facilities, the state department shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant, facility administrator or manager, any direct care staff, or any other adult living in the same location, has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation.

(b) (1) The application for licensure or renewal shall be denied if the criminal record indicates that the person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license referred to in subdivision (a) has been convicted of a violation or attempted violation of any one or more of the following Penal Code provisions: Section 187, subdivision (a) of Section 192, Section 203, 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 210.5, 211, 220,

222, 243.4, 245, 261, 262, or 264.1, Sections 265 to 267, inclusive, Section 273a, 273d, 273.5, or 285, subdivisions (c), (d), (f), and (g) of Section 286, Section 288, subdivisions (c), (d), (f), and (g) of Section 288a, Section 288.5, 289, 289.5, 368, 451, 459, 470, 475, 484, or 484b, Sections 484d to 484j, inclusive, or Section 487, 488, 496, 503, 518, or 666, unless any of the following applies:

(A) The person was convicted of a felony and has obtained a certificate of rehabilitation under Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 of the Penal Code and the information or accusation against the person has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code with regard to that felony.

(B) The person was convicted of a misdemeanor and the information or accusation against the person has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4 or 1203.4a of the Penal Code.

(C) The person was convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, but has previously disclosed the fact of each conviction to the department and the department has made a determination in accordance with law that the conviction does not disqualify the person.

(D) The person was convicted of a misdemeanor violation of Section 488 or 496 and has had no subsequent conviction of either offense in the last five years. This paragraph shall become inoperative on August 1, 2001.

(2) The application for licensure or renewal shall be denied if the criminal record of the person includes a conviction in another state for an offense that, if committed or attempted in this state, would have been punishable as one or more of the offenses set forth in paragraph (1), unless evidence of rehabilitation comparable to the dismissal of a misdemeanor or a certificate of rehabilitation as set forth in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) is provided to the department.

(c) If the criminal record of a person described in subdivision (a) indicates any conviction other than a minor traffic violation or other than a conviction listed in subdivision (b), the department may deny the application for licensure or renewal. In determining whether or not to deny the application for licensure or renewal pursuant to this subdivision, the department shall take into consideration the following factors as evidence of good character and rehabilitation:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the offense under consideration and its relationship to their employment duties and responsibilities.

(2) Activities since conviction, including employment or participation in therapy or education, that would indicate changed behavior.

(3) The time that has elapsed since the commission of the conduct or offense referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) and the number of offenses.

(4) The extent to which the person has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution, or any other sanction lawfully imposed against the person.

(5) Any rehabilitation evidence, including character references, submitted by the person.

(6) Employment history and current employer recommendations.

(7) Circumstances surrounding the commission of the offense that would demonstrate the unlikelihood of repetition.

(8) The granting by the Governor of a full and unconditional pardon.

(9) A certificate of rehabilitation from a superior court.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a criminal record check of a person receiving services in an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled habilitative, intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled-nursing, or intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled.

(e) For purposes of this section, “direct care staff” means all facility staff who are trained and experienced in the care of persons with developmental disabilities and who directly provide program and nursing services to clients. Administrative and licensed personnel shall be considered direct care staff when directly providing program and nursing services to clients. Persons employed as consultants and acting as direct care staff shall be subject to the same requirements for a criminal record clearance as other direct care staff. However, the employing facility shall not be required to pay any costs associated with that criminal record clearance.

(f) Upon the employment of any person specified in subdivision (a), and prior to any contact with clients or residents, the facility shall submit fingerprint cards to the department for the purpose of obtaining a criminal record check.

(g) The department shall develop procedures to ensure that any licensee, direct care staff, or certificate holder for whom a criminal record has been obtained pursuant to this section or Section 1338.5 or 1736 shall not be required to obtain multiple criminal record clearances.

SEC. 2. Section 1276.5 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1276.5. (a) The department shall adopt regulations setting forth the minimum number of equivalent nursing hours per patient required in skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities, subject to the specific requirements of Section 14110.7 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(b) (1) For the purposes of this section, “nursing hours” means the number of hours of work performed per patient day by aides, nursing assistants, or orderlies plus two times the number of hours worked per patient day by registered nurses and licensed vocational

nurses (except directors of nursing in facilities of 60 or larger capacity) and, in the distinct part of facilities and freestanding facilities providing care for the developmentally disabled or mentally disordered, by licensed psychiatric technicians who perform direct nursing services for patients in skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities, except when the skilled nursing and intermediate care facility is licensed as a part of a state hospital.

(2) Concurrent with implementation of the first year of rates established under the Medi-Cal Long Term Care Reimbursement Act of 1990 (Article 3.8 (commencing with Section 14126) of Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code), for the purposes of this section, “nursing hours” means the number of hours of work performed per patient day by aides, nursing assistants, registered nurses, and licensed vocational nurses (except directors of nursing in facilities of 60 or larger capacity) and, in the distinct part of facilities and freestanding facilities providing care for the developmentally disabled or mentally disordered, by licensed psychiatric technicians who performed direct nursing services for patients in skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities, except when the skilled nursing and intermediate care facility is licensed as a part of a state hospital.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 1276, the department shall require the utilization of a registered nurse at all times if the department determines that the services of a skilled nursing and intermediate care facility require the utilization of a registered nurse.

(d) (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the administrator of an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled, intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled habilitative, or an intermediate care facility/developmentally disabled—nursing shall be either a licensed nursing home administrator or a qualified mental retardation professional as defined in Section 483.430 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) To qualify as an administrator for an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled, a qualified mental retardation professional shall complete at least six months of administrative training or demonstrate six months of experience in an administrative capacity in a licensed health facility, as defined in Section 1250, excluding those facilities specified in subdivisions (e), (h), and (i).

SEC. 3. Section 1337.9 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1337.9. (a) (1) The state department may deny an application for, initiate an action to suspend or revoke a certificate for, or deny a training and examination application for a nurse assistant.

(2) The state department shall deny a training and examination application and deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate issued under this article if the applicant or certificate holder has been convicted

of a violation or attempted violation of any one or more of the following Penal Code provisions: Section 187, subdivision (a) of Section 192, Section 203, 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 210.5, 211, 220, 222, 243.4, 245, 261, 262, or 264.1, Sections 265 to 267, inclusive, Section 273a, 273d, 273.5, or 285, subdivisions (c), (d), (f), and (g) of Section 286, Section 288, subdivisions (c), (d), (f), and (g) of Section 288a, Section 288.5, 289, 289.5, 368, 451, 459, 470, 475, 484, or 484b, Sections 484d to 484j, inclusive, Section 487, 488, 496, 503, 518, or 666, unless any of the following applies:

(A) The person was convicted of a felony and has obtained a certificate of rehabilitation under Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 of the Penal Code and the information or accusation against him or her has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

(B) The person was convicted of a misdemeanor and the information or accusation against him or her has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4 or 1203.4a of the Penal Code.

(C) The certificate holder was convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, but has previously disclosed the fact of each conviction to the department, and the department has made a determination in accordance with law that the conviction does not disqualify the applicant from certification.

(D) The person was convicted of a misdemeanor violation of Section 488 or 496, is requesting a renewal of their certificate, and has had no subsequent convictions in the last five years. This paragraph shall become inoperative on August 1, 2001.

(b) An application or certificate shall be denied, suspended, or revoked upon conviction in another state of an offense that, if committed or attempted in this state, would have been punishable as one or more of the offenses set forth in subdivision (a), unless evidence of rehabilitation comparable to the certificate of rehabilitation or dismissal of a misdemeanor set forth in paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (a) is provided.

(c) The state department may deny an application or deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate issued under this article for any of the following:

(1) Unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to, incompetence, gross negligence, unless due to circumstances beyond the nurse assistant's control, physical, mental, or verbal abuse of patients, or misappropriation of property of patients or others.

(2) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a certified nurse assistant, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, or 4852.13 of the Penal Code, where the state department determines that the applicant or certificate holder has not adequately demonstrated that he or she has been rehabilitated and will present a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of patients.



(3) Conviction for, or use of, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000), or any dangerous drug, as defined in Section 4022 of the Business and Professions Code, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to the certified nurse assistant, any other person, or the public, to the extent that this use would impair the ability to conduct, with safety to the public, the practice authorized by a certificate.

(4) Procuring a certified nurse assistant certificate by fraud or misrepresentation or mistake.

(5) Making or giving any false statement or information in conjunction with the application for issuance of a nurse assistant certificate or training and examination application.

(6) Impersonating any applicant, or acting as proxy for an applicant, in any examination required under this article for the issuance of a certificate.

(7) Impersonating another certified nurse assistant, a licensed vocational nurse, or a registered nurse, or permitting or allowing another person to use a certificate for the purpose of providing nursing services.

(8) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violating of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of, this article.

(d) In determining whether or not to deny the application for licensure or renewal pursuant to subdivision (c), the department shall take into consideration the following factors as evidence of good character and rehabilitation:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the conduct or crime under consideration and its relationship to their employment duties and responsibilities.

(2) Activities since conviction, including employment or participation in therapy or education, that would indicate changed behavior.

(3) The time that has elapsed since the commission of the conduct or offense referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) and the number of offenses.

(4) The extent to which the person has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution, or any other sanction lawfully imposed against the person.

(5) Any rehabilitation evidence, including character references, submitted by the person.

(6) Employment history and current employer recommendations.

(7) Circumstances surrounding the commission of the offense that would demonstrate the unlikelihood of repetition.

(8) The granting by the Governor of a full and unconditional pardon.

(9) A certificate of rehabilitation from a superior court.

(e) When the state department determines that a certificate shall be suspended, the state department shall specify the period of actual suspension. The state department may determine that the suspension shall be stayed, placing the certificate holder on probation with specified conditions for a period not to exceed two years. When the state department determines that probation is the appropriate action, the certificate holder shall be notified that in lieu of the state department proceeding with a formal action to suspend the certification and in lieu of an appeal pursuant to subdivision (h), the certificate holder may request to enter into a diversion program agreement. A diversion program agreement shall specify terms and conditions related to matters, including, but not limited to, work performance, rehabilitation, training, counseling, progress reports, and treatment programs. If a certificate holder successfully completes a diversion program, no action shall be taken upon the allegations that were the basis for the diversion agreement. Upon failure of the certificate holder to comply with the terms and conditions of an agreement, the state department may proceed with a formal action to suspend or revoke the certification.

(f) A plea or verdict of guilty, or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere shall be deemed a conviction within the meaning of this article. The state department may deny an application or deny, suspend, or revoke a certification based on a conviction as provided in this article when the judgment of conviction is entered or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence.

(g) Upon determination to deny an application or deny, revoke, or suspend a certificate, the state department shall notify the applicant or certificate holder in writing by certified mail of all of the following:

(1) The reasons for the determination.

(2) The applicant's or certificate holder's right to appeal the determination if the determination was made under subdivision (c).

(h) (1) Upon written notification that the state department has determined that an application shall be denied or a certificate shall be denied, suspended, or revoked under subdivision (c), the applicant or certificate holder may request an administrative hearing by submitting a written request to the state department within 20 business days of receipt of the written notification. Upon receipt of a written request, the state department shall hold an administrative hearing pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 100171, except where those procedures are inconsistent with this section.

(2) A hearing under this section shall be conducted within 60 days of the receipt of the written request of the applicant or certificate holder submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) by a hearing officer or administrative law judge designated by the director at a location, other than the work facility, convenient to the applicant or certificate

holder unless the applicant or certificate holder agrees to an extension. The hearing shall be tape recorded and a written decision shall be sent by certified mail to the applicant or certificate holder within 30 calendar days of the hearing. Except as specified in subdivision (i), the effective date of an action to revoke or suspend a certificate shall be specified in the written decision, or if no administrative hearing is timely requested, the effective date shall be 21 business days from written notification of the department's determination to revoke or suspend.

(i) The state department may revoke or suspend a certificate prior to any hearing when immediate action is necessary in the judgment of the director to protect the public welfare. Notice of this action, including a statement of the necessity of immediate action to protect the public welfare, shall be sent in accordance with subdivision (g). If the certificate holder requests an administrative hearing pursuant to subdivision (h), the state department shall hold the administrative hearing as soon as possible but not later than 30 calendar days from receipt of the request for a hearing. A written hearing decision upholding or setting aside the action shall be sent by certified mail to the certificate holder within 30 calendar days of the hearing.

(j) Upon the expiration of the term of suspension, he or she shall be reinstated by the state department and shall be entitled to resume practice unless it is established to the satisfaction of the state department that the person has practiced as a certified nurse assistant in this state during the term of suspension. In this event, the state department shall revoke the person's certificate.

(k) Upon a determination to deny an application or deny, revoke, or suspend a certificate, the state department shall notify the employer of the applicant and certificate holder in writing of that determination, and whether the determination is final, or whether a hearing is pending relating to this determination. If a licensee or facility is required to deny employment or terminate employment of the employee based upon notice from the state that the employee is determined to be unsuitable for employment under this section, the licensee or facility shall not incur criminal, civil, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, or administrative liability as a result of that denial or termination.

SEC. 4. Section 1338.5 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1338.5. (a) (1) A criminal record clearance shall be conducted for all nurse assistants by the submission of fingerprint cards to the state department for processing at the Department of Justice. This criminal record clearance shall be completed prior to issuing or renewing a certificate. Applicants shall be responsible for any costs associated with rolling the fingerprint cards. The fee to cover the processing costs of the Department of Justice, not including the costs

associated with rolling the fingerprint cards, shall not exceed thirty-two dollars (\$32) per card.

(2) (A) Upon enrollment in a training program for nurse assistant certification, and prior to direct contact with residents, a candidate for training shall submit a training and examination application and the fingerprint cards to the state department to receive a criminal record review through the Department of Justice. Submission of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be at the discretion of the state department.

(B) New nurse assistant applicants who are unemployed and unable to pay the fee charged by the Department of Justice pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) due to financial hardship may request a waiver for a period not to exceed six months. The request for waiver shall be made in writing at the time the fingerprint card is submitted for processing. The applicant shall agree to pay the fee within six months of employment. The failure to pay the fee within the six-month period shall result in the inactivation of the applicant's certificate until the fee is paid in full.

(b) Upon receipt of the fingerprints, the Department of Justice shall notify the state department of the criminal record information, as provided for in this subdivision. If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the state department with a statement of that fact. If the fingerprints are illegible, the Department of Justice shall, within 15 calendar days from receipt of the fingerprints, notify the state department of that fact.

(c) The department shall respond to the applicant and employer within 30 days from the date of receipt of the fingerprint cards.

(d) The use of fingerprint live-scan technology implemented by the Department of Justice by the year 1999 shall be used by the Department of Justice to generate timely and accurate positive fingerprint identification prior to nurse assistant certification.

(e) The state department shall develop procedures to ensure that any licensee, direct care staff, or certificate holder for whom a criminal record has been obtained pursuant to this section or Section 1265.5 or 1736 shall not be required to obtain multiple criminal record clearances.

(f) If the department receives a fingerprint card from a certified nursing assistant 60 days prior to the expiration of the certified nursing assistant's certification and the department has received no response from the Department of Justice, or if the department is experiencing a delay in processing the renewal of the certified nursing assistant's certification at the time of the expiration of the certified nursing assistant's certification, the department may extend the expiration of the certified nursing assistant's certification for 60 days. This provision shall expire August 1, 2001.

SEC. 5. Section 1522 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1522. The Legislature recognizes the need to generate timely and accurate positive fingerprint identification of applicants as a condition of issuing licenses, permits, or certificates of approval for persons to operate or provide direct care services in a community care facility, foster family home, or a certified family home. Therefore, the Legislature supports the use of the fingerprint live-scan technology, as identified in the long-range plan of the Department of Justice for fully automating the processing of fingerprints and other data by the year 1999, otherwise known as the California Crime Information Intelligence System (CAL-CII), to be used for applicant fingerprints. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to require the fingerprints of those individuals whose contact with community care clients may pose a risk to the clients' health and safety.

(a) Before issuing a license or special permit to any person or persons to operate or manage a community care facility, the State Department of Social Services shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or arrested for any crime specified in Section 290 of the Penal Code, for violating Section 245 or 273.5, subdivision (b) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (2) of Section 273a of the Penal Code, or for any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and the person has not been exonerated. That criminal history information shall include the full criminal record, of any of those persons, and subsequent arrest information pursuant to Section 11105.2 of the Penal Code. No fee shall be charged by the Department of Justice or the State Department of Social Services for the fingerprinting of an applicant for a license or special permit to operate a facility providing nonmedical board, room, and care for six or less children or for obtaining a criminal record of the applicant pursuant to this section. The following shall apply to the criminal record information:

(1) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any other person specified in subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the application shall be denied, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g).

(2) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any person specified in subdivision (b) is awaiting trial for a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the State Department of Social Services shall cease processing the application until the conclusion of the trial.

(3) If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the applicant and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact.

(4) If the State Department of Social Services finds after licensure that the licensee, or any other person specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the license may be revoked, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g).

(b) In addition to the applicant, this section shall be applicable to criminal convictions of the following persons:

(1) Adults responsible for administration or direct supervision of staff.

(2) Any person, other than a client, residing in the facility.

(3) Any person who provides client assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing, or personal hygiene. Any nurse assistant or home health aide meeting the requirements of Section 1338.5 or 1736.6, respectively, who is not employed, retained, or contracted by the licensee, and who has been certified or recertified on or after July 1, 1998, shall be deemed to meet the criminal record clearance requirements of this section. A certified nurse assistant and certified home health aide who will be providing client assistance and who falls under this exception shall provide one copy of his or her certification, prior to providing care, to the adult community care facility. The facility shall maintain the copy of the certification on file as long as care is being provided by the certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide at the facility. Nothing in this paragraph restricts the right of the department to exclude a certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide from a licensed community care facility pursuant to Section 1558.

(4) Any staff person or employee who has frequent and routine contact with the clients. In determining who has frequent contact, any volunteer who is in the facility shall be exempt unless the volunteer is used to replace or supplement staff in providing direct care and supervision of clients. In determining who has routine contact, staff and employees under direct onsite supervision and who are not providing direct care and supervision or who have only occasional or intermittent contact with clients shall be exempt.

(5) If the applicant is a firm, partnership, association, or corporation, the chief executive officer or other person serving in like capacity.

(6) Additional officers of the governing body of the applicant, or other persons with a financial interest in the applicant, as determined necessary by the department by regulation. The criteria used in the development of these regulations shall be based on the person's capability to exercise substantial influence over the operation of the facility.



(c) (1) Subsequent to initial licensure, any person specified in subdivision (b) and not exempted from fingerprinting shall, as a condition to employment, residence, or presence in a community care facility, be fingerprinted and sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal convictions. The licensee shall submit these fingerprints to the Department of Justice not later than four calendar days following employment, residence, or initial presence in the community care facility. These fingerprints shall be on a card provided by the State Department of Social Services for the purpose of obtaining a permanent set of fingerprints. Fingerprints not submitted to the Department of Justice, as required in this section, shall result in the citation of a deficiency and the fingerprints shall then be submitted to the State Department of Social Services for processing. Upon request of the licensee, who shall enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard for this purpose, the Department of Justice shall verify receipt of the fingerprints.

(2) Within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the fingerprints, the Department of Justice shall notify the State Department of Social Services of the criminal record information, as provided for in subdivision (a). If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the licensee and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact within 15 calendar days of receipt of the fingerprints. If new fingerprints are required for processing, the Department of Justice shall, within 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of the fingerprints, notify the licensee that the fingerprints were illegible.

(3) Except for persons specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the licensee shall endeavor to ascertain the previous employment history of persons required to be fingerprinted under this subdivision. If it is determined by the State Department of Social Services, on the basis of the fingerprints submitted to the Department of Justice, that the person has been convicted of, or is awaiting trial for, a sex offense against a minor, or has been convicted for an offense specified in Section 243.4, 273a, or 273d or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or a felony, the State Department of Social Services shall notify the licensee to act immediately to terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the community care facility, or bar the person from entering the community care facility. The State Department of Social Services may subsequently grant an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). If the conviction or arrest was for another crime, except a minor traffic violation, the licensee shall, upon notification by the State Department of Social Services, act immediately to either (1) terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the community care facility, or bar the person from entering the community care facility; or (2) seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). The State Department of Social Services shall

determine if the person shall be allowed to remain in the facility until a decision on the exemption is rendered. A licensee's failure to comply with the department's prohibition of employment, contact with clients, or presence in the facility as required by this paragraph shall be grounds for disciplining the licensee pursuant to Section 1550.

(4) The department may issue an exemption on its own motion pursuant to subdivision (g) if the person's criminal history indicates that the person is of good character based on the age, seriousness, and frequency of the conviction or convictions. The department, in consultation with interested parties, shall develop regulation to establish the criteria to grant an exemption pursuant to this paragraph.

(5) Concurrently with notifying the licensee pursuant to paragraph (3), the department shall notify the affected individual of his or her right to seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). The individual may seek an exemption only if the licensee terminates the person's employment or removes the person from the facility after receiving notice from the department pursuant to paragraph (3).

(d) (1) Before issuing a license, special permit, or certificate of approval to any person or persons to operate or manage a foster family home or certified family home as described in Section 1506, the State Department of Social Services or other approving authority shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant or any person specified in subdivision (b) has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or arrested for any crime specified in Section 290 of the Penal Code or arrested for violating Section 245 or 273.5, subdivision (b) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (2) of Section 273a of the Penal Code, or for any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and the person has not been exonerated. That criminal history information shall include the full criminal record, if any, of those persons. No fee shall be charged by the Department of Justice or the State Department of Social Services for the fingerprinting of an applicant for a license, special permit, or certificate of approval described in this subdivision. The record, if any, shall be taken into consideration when evaluating a prospective applicant. The following shall apply to the criminal record information:

(A) If the applicant or other persons specified in subdivision (b) have convictions that would make the applicant's home unfit as a foster family home or a certified family home, the license, special permit, or certificate of approval shall be denied.

(B) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any person specified in subdivision (b) is awaiting trial for a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the State Department



of Social Services or other approving authority shall cease processing the application until the conclusion of the trial.

(C) For the purposes of this subdivision, a criminal record clearance provided under Section 8712 of the Family Code may be used by the department or other approving agency.

(2) Any person specified in this subdivision shall, as a part of the application, be fingerprinted and sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal convictions or arrests for any crime against a child, spousal or cohabitant abuse or, any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and shall submit these fingerprints to the licensing agency or other approving authority.

(3) The foster family agency shall obtain fingerprints from certified home applicants and from persons specified in subdivision (b) and shall submit them directly to the Department of Justice. Within five working days of the receipt of the criminal record or information regarding criminal convictions from the Department of Justice, the department shall notify the applicant of any criminal arrests or convictions. If no arrests or convictions are recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the foster family agency with a statement of that fact concurrent with providing the information to the State Department of Social Services.

(4) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any other person specified in subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the application shall be denied, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g).

(5) If the State Department of Social Services finds after licensure or the granting of the certificate of approval that the licensee, certified foster parent, or any other person specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the license or certificate of approval may be revoked by the department or the foster family agency, whichever is applicable, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). A licensee's failure to comply with the department's prohibition of employment, contact with clients, or presence in the facility as required by paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) shall be grounds for disciplining the licensee pursuant to Section 1550.

(e) The State Department of Social Services shall not use a record of arrest to deny, revoke, or terminate any application, license, employment, or residence unless the department investigates the incident and secures evidence, whether or not related to the incident of arrest, that is admissible in an administrative hearing to establish conduct by the person that may pose a risk to the health and safety of any person who is or may become a client. The State Department of Social Services is authorized to obtain any arrest or conviction records or reports from any law enforcement agency as necessary to

the performance of its duties to inspect, license, and investigate community care facilities and individuals associated with a community care facility.

(f) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, a conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which the State Department of Social Services is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, notwithstanding a subsequent order pursuant to Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4a of the Penal Code permitting the person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the record of a conviction, or a copy thereof certified by the clerk of the court or by a judge of the court in which the conviction occurred, shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the arrest disposition report certified by the Department of Justice, or documents admissible in a criminal action pursuant to Section 969b of the Penal Code, shall be prima facie evidence of the conviction, notwithstanding any other provision of law prohibiting the admission of these documents in a civil or administrative action.

(g) (1) After review of the record, the director may grant an exemption from disqualification for a license or special permit as specified in paragraphs (1) and (4) of subdivision (a), or for a license, special permit, or certificate of approval as specified in paragraphs (4) and (5) of subdivision (d), or for employment, residence, or presence in a community care facility as specified in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subdivision (c), if the director has substantial and convincing evidence to support a reasonable belief that the applicant and the person convicted of the crime, if other than the applicant, are of such good character as to justify issuance of the license or special permit or granting an exemption for purposes of subdivision (c). Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, no exemption shall be granted pursuant to this subdivision if the conviction was for an offense specified in Section 220, 243.4, or 264.1, subdivision (a) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (1) of Section 273a, Section 273d, 288, or 289, subdivision (a) of Section 290, or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or was a conviction of another crime against an individual specified in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of the Penal Code. The director may grant an exemption if the employee or prospective employee, who was convicted of a crime against an individual prescribed in paragraph (1), (2), (7), or (8) of subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of



the Penal Code, has been rehabilitated as provided in Section 4852.03 of the Penal Code, has maintained the conduct required in Section 4852.05 of the Penal Code for at least 10 years, and has the recommendation of the district attorney representing the employee's county of residence, or if the employee or prospective employee has received a certificate of rehabilitation pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 of the Penal Code.

(2) The department shall not prohibit a person from being employed or having contact with clients in a facility on the basis of a denied criminal record exemption request or arrest information unless the department complies with the requirements of Section 1558.

(h) (1) For purposes of compliance with this section, the department may permit an individual to transfer a current criminal records clearance, as defined in subdivision (a), from one facility to another, as long as the criminal record clearance has been processed through a state licensing district office, and is being transferred to another state licensing district office.

(2) The State Department of Social Services shall hold criminal record clearances in its active files for a minimum of two years after an employee is no longer employed at a licensed facility in order for the criminal record clearance to be transferred.

(i) The full criminal record obtained for purposes of this section may be used by the department or by a licensed adoption agency as a clearance required for adoption purposes.

(j) If a licensee or facility is required by law to deny employment or to terminate employment of any employee based on written notification from the state department that the employee has a prior criminal conviction or is determined unsuitable for employment under Section 1558, the licensee or facility shall not incur civil liability or unemployment insurance liability as a result of that denial or termination.

(k) (1) In order to expedite the current criminal record clearance and fingerprint process of the Department of Justice pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (c), the Department of Justice shall complete work on all of its current backlog of criminal records clearances for community care facilities licensed by the State Department of Social Services by July 1, 1995.

(2) Effective January 1, 1995, the Department of Justice shall complete all new requests for criminal record clearances for community care facilities within 30 days of receipt.

(3) The Department of Justice shall coordinate with the State Department of Social Services to establish and implement an automated live-scan processing system for fingerprints in two district offices of the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services by July 1, 1995. These live-scan

processing units shall be connected to the main system at the Department of Justice by July 1, 1996, and shall become part of that department's pilot project in accordance with its long-range plan. The State Department of Social Services may charge a fee not to exceed five dollars (\$5) or the actual cost of processing a set of live-scan fingerprints.

(4) The Department of Justice shall provide a report to the Assembly Human Services Committee and to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee by July 15, 1995, regarding the completion of backlogged criminal record clearance requests pursuant to paragraph (1) and the progress on implementing the automated live-scan processing system in the two district offices pursuant to paragraph (3). The Department of Justice shall provide a report to the Assembly Human Services Committee and to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee by April 15, 1996, regarding the progress of the implementation of the statewide CAL-CII system; the number of requests for criminal clearances received pursuant to this section during the previous year; the number of criminal record clearances requested and completed pursuant to this section within a 17-day "expedite" period or within the 30-day period required by paragraph (2); and the number of requests and reasons for delays beyond the 30-day period.

SEC. 6. Section 1736.5 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1736.5. (a) The state department shall deny a training application and deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate issued under this article if the applicant or certificate holder has been convicted of a violation or attempted violation of any of the following Penal Code provisions: Section 187, subdivision (a) of Section 192, Section 203, 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 210.5, 211, 220, 222, 243.4, 245, 261, 262, or 264.1, Sections 265 to 267, inclusive, Section 273a, 273d, 273.5, or 285, subdivisions (c), (d), (f), and (g) of Section 286, Section 288, subdivisions (c), (d), (f), and (g) of Section 288a, Section 288.5, 289, 289.5, 368, 451, 459, 470, 475, 484, or 484b, Sections 484d to 484j, inclusive, Section 487, 488, 496, 503, 518, or 666, unless any of the following apply:

(1) The person was convicted of a felony and has obtained a certificate of rehabilitation under Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 4852.01) of Title 6 of the Penal Code and the information or accusation against him or her has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

(2) The person was convicted of a misdemeanor and the information or accusation against him or her has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4 or 1203.4a of the Penal Code.

(3) The certificate holder was convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, but has previously disclosed the fact of each conviction to the department, and the department has made a determination in

accordance with law that the conviction does not disqualify the applicant from certification.

(b) An application or certificate shall be denied, suspended, or revoked upon conviction in another state of an offense that, if committed or attempted in this state, would have been punishable as one or more of the offenses set forth in subdivision (a), unless evidence of rehabilitation comparable to the certificate of rehabilitation or dismissal of a misdemeanor set forth in paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (a) is provided.

(c) (1) The state department may deny an application or deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate issued under this article for any of the following:

(A) Unprofessional conduct, including, but not limited to, incompetence, gross negligence, physical, mental, or verbal abuse of patients, or misappropriation of property of patients or others.

(B) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a home health aide, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, or 4852.13 of the Penal Code, where the state department determines that the applicant or certificate holder has not adequately demonstrated that he or she has been rehabilitated and will present a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of patients.

(C) Conviction for, or use of, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000), or any dangerous drug, as defined in Section 4022 of the Business and Professions Code, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to the home health aide, any other person, or the public, to the extent that this use would impair the ability to conduct, with safety to the public, the practice authorized by a certificate.

(D) Procuring a home health aide certificate by fraud, misrepresentation, or mistake.

(E) Making or giving any false statement or information in conjunction with the application for issuance of a home health aide certificate or training and examination application.

(F) Impersonating any applicant, or acting as proxy for an applicant, in any examination required under this article for the issuance of a certificate.

(G) Impersonating another home health aide, a licensed vocational nurse, or a registered nurse, or permitting or allowing another person to use a certificate for the purpose of providing nursing services.

(H) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of, this article.

(2) In determining whether or not to deny an application or deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate issued under this article pursuant to



this subdivision, the department shall take into consideration the following factors as evidence of good character and rehabilitation:

(A) The nature and seriousness of the offense under consideration and its relationship to their employment duties and responsibilities.

(B) Activities since conviction, including employment or participation in therapy or education, that would indicate changed behavior.

(C) The time that has elapsed since the commission of the conduct or offense referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) and the number of offenses.

(D) The extent to which the person has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution, or any other sanction lawfully imposed against the person.

(E) Any rehabilitation evidence, including character references, submitted by the person.

(F) Employment history and current employer recommendations.

(G) Circumstances surrounding the commission of the offense that would demonstrate the unlikelihood of repetition.

(H) Granting by the Governor of a full and unconditional pardon.

(I) A certificate of rehabilitation from a superior court.

(d) When the state department determines that a certificate shall be suspended, the state department shall specify the period of actual suspension. The state department may determine that the suspension shall be stayed, placing the certificate holder on probation with specified conditions for a period not to exceed two years. When the state department determines that probation is the appropriate action, the certificate holder shall be notified that in lieu of the state department proceeding with a formal action to suspend the certification and in lieu of an appeal pursuant to subdivision (g), the certificate holder may request to enter into a diversion program agreement. A diversion program agreement shall specify terms and conditions related to matters, including, but not limited to, work performance, rehabilitation, training, counseling, progress reports, and treatment programs. If a certificate holder successfully completes a diversion program, no action shall be taken upon the allegations that were the basis for the diversion agreement. Upon failure of the certificate holder to comply with the terms and conditions of an agreement, the state department may proceed with a formal action to suspend or revoke the certification.

(e) A plea or verdict of guilty, or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere, shall be deemed a conviction within the meaning of this article. The state department may deny an application or deny, suspend, or revoke a certification based on a conviction as provided in this article when the judgment of conviction is entered or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence.

(f) Upon determination to deny an application or deny, revoke, or suspend a certificate, the state department shall notify the applicant or certificate holder in writing by certified mail of all of the following:

(1) The reasons for the determination.

(2) The applicant's or certificate holder's right to appeal the determination if the determination was made under subdivision (c).

(g) (1) Upon written notification that the state department has determined that an application shall be denied or a certificate shall be denied, suspended, or revoked under subdivision (c), the applicant or certificate holder may request an administrative hearing by submitting a written request to the state department within 20 business days of receipt of the written notification. Upon receipt of a written request, the state department shall hold an administrative hearing pursuant to the procedures specified in Section 100171, except where those procedures are inconsistent with this section.

(2) A hearing under this section shall be conducted by a hearing officer or administrative law judge designated by the director at a location other than the work facility convenient to the applicant or certificate holder. The hearing shall be tape recorded and a written decision shall be sent by certified mail to the applicant or certificate holder within 30 calendar days of the hearing. Except as specified in subdivision (h), the effective date of an action to revoke or suspend a certificate shall be specified in the written decision, or if no administrative hearing is timely requested, the effective date shall be 21 business days from written notification of the department's determination to revoke or suspend.

(h) The state department may revoke or suspend a certificate prior to any hearing when immediate action is necessary in the judgment of the director to protect the public welfare. Notice of this action, including a statement of the necessity of immediate action to protect the public welfare, shall be sent in accordance with subdivision (f). If the certificate holder requests an administrative hearing pursuant to subdivision (g), the state department shall hold the administrative hearing as soon as possible but not later than 30 calendar days from receipt of the request for a hearing. A written hearing decision upholding or setting aside the action shall be sent by certified mail to the certificate holder within 30 calendar days of the hearing.

(i) Upon the expiration of the term of suspension, he or she shall be reinstated by the state department and shall be entitled to resume practice unless it is established to the satisfaction of the state department that the person has practiced as a home health aide in California during the term of suspension. In this event, the state department shall revoke the person's certificate.

(j) Upon a determination to deny an application or deny, revoke, or suspend a certificate, the department shall notify the employer of

the applicant or certificate holder in writing of that determination, and whether the determination is final, or whether a hearing is pending relating to this determination. If a licensee or facility is required to deny employment or terminate employment of the employee based upon notice from the state that the employee is determined to be unsuitable for employment under this section, the licensee or facility shall not incur criminal, civil, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, or administrative liability as a result of that denial or termination.

SEC. 7. Section 1736.6 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1736.6. (a) (1) A criminal record clearance shall be conducted for all home health aides by the submission of fingerprint cards to the state department for processing at the Department of Justice. This criminal record clearance shall be completed prior to issuing or renewing a certificate. Applicants shall be responsible for any costs associated with rolling the fingerprint cards. The fee to cover the processing costs of the Department of Justice, not including the costs associated with rolling the fingerprint cards, shall not exceed thirty-two dollars (\$32) per card.

(2) (A) Upon enrollment in a training program for home health aide certification, and prior to direct contact with residents, a candidate for training shall submit a training and examination application and the fingerprint cards to the state department to receive a criminal record review through the Department of Justice. Submission of the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall be at the discretion of the state department.

(B) New home health aide applicants who are unemployed and unable to pay the fee charged by the Department of Justice pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) due to financial hardship may request a waiver for a period not to exceed six months. The request for waiver shall be made in writing at the time the fingerprint card is submitted for processing. The applicant shall agree to pay the fee within six months of employment. The failure to pay the fee within the six-month period shall result in the inactivation of the applicant's certificate until the fee is paid in full.

(b) Upon receipt of the fingerprints, the Department of Justice shall notify the state department of the criminal record information, as provided for in this subdivision. If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the state department with a statement of that fact. If the fingerprints are illegible, the Department of Justice shall, within 15 calendar days from receipt of the fingerprints, notify the state department of that fact.

(c) The department shall respond to the applicant and employer within 30 days from the date of receipt of the fingerprint cards.



(d) A criminal record clearance, consistent with this section shall be implemented for home health aide applicants beginning July 1, 1998, and phased in for all certified home health aides by June 30, 2000.

(e) The use of fingerprint live scan technology implemented by the Department of Justice by the year 1999 shall be used by the Department of Justice to generate timely and accurate positive fingerprint identification prior to home health aide certification.

(f) The department shall develop procedures to ensure that any licensee, direct care staff, or certificate holder for whom a criminal record has been obtained pursuant to this section or Section 1265.6 or 1338.5 shall not be required to obtain multiple criminal record clearances.

(g) If the department receives a fingerprint card from a certified home health aide 60 days prior to the expiration of the certified health aide's certification and the department has received no response from the Department of Justice, or if the department is experiencing a delay in processing the renewal of the certified home health aide's certification at the time of the expiration of the certified home health aide's certification, the department may extend the expiration of the certified home health aide's certification for 60 days. This provision shall expire August 1, 2001.

SEC. 8. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

SEC. 9. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to ensure the health and safety of patients in care facilities by making revisions to existing law at the earliest possible time to allow for consistency and efficiency in the implementation of fingerprinting of caregivers in California, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

